

LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRIEF SYLLABUS

SPECIAL NOTE:

This brief syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. A full syllabus will be distributed to students at the first class session.

TEXT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS USED IN THE COURSE (if any):

Please check with the LCC bookstore, <http://www.labette.edu/bookstore/bkstore.htm>, for the required texts for this class.

<u>COURSE NUMBER:</u>	POLS 105
<u>COURSE TITLE:</u>	AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
<u>SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</u>	3
<u>DEPARTMENT:</u>	Political Science
<u>DIVISION:</u>	General Education
<u>PREREQUISITES:</u>	None
<u>REVISION DATE:</u>	Spring 2013

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A general, systematic study of the development and structure of the American national government, with emphasis on the actual workings. Serves as a foundation for other political science courses.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

**The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.
Kansas Regents Shared Number Course POL 1020**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify, distinguish, and analyze the roles, powers, and relationships among the 3 branches of government – legislative/judicial/executive. (Meets KBOR “Institutions” requirement.)
 - Identify and explain the political thinking that led to the American Revolution.
 - Analyze the political philosophy behind the desire for independence.
 - Analyze and explain the creation and evolution of the Constitution.
 - Identify and explain the rationale for the United States’ Federal system of government.

- Explain the concepts of separation of powers and the system of checks and balances.
- Identify the manner in which the U.S. Constitution changes and continues to evolve.

2. Identify forms of political participation, differentiate among organizations engaged in elections, and analyze participation in US democracy. (Meets KBOR “Political Behavior” requirement.)

- Analyze and identify what democracy is.
- Analyze and explain the limitations of democracy.
- Analyze and explain the various interpretations and implementations of democracy as a form of government.

3. Understand and analyze how policy decisions are made and the impact of policy on the public. (Meets KBOR “Public Policy” requirement.)

- Identify and explain the role of the President.
- Identify and explain the role of the Bureaucracy.
- Identify and explain the role of the Congress.
- Identify and explain the role of the Judiciary.
- Analyze and identify the manner in which these institutions interact and react to each other in performing the functions of government.

4. Explain the origins and the evolution of United States Constitutional Democracy. (Meets KBOR “Constitution” requirement.)

- Identify and explain how public policy is formed in the United States.
- Describe how public opinion influences the actions of government at all levels.
- Describe how ethnic and cultural diversity affects the political process in the United States.
- Analyze and explain the role of the media in the political process.